

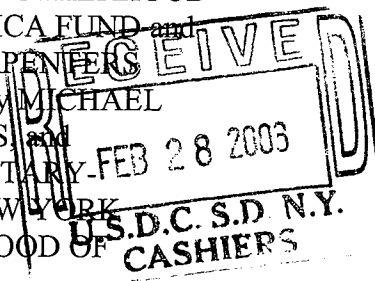
JUDGE  
UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

08 CV 02002

THE NEW YORK CITY DISTRICT COUNCIL OF  
CARPENTERS PENSION FUND, NEW YORK CITY  
DISTRICT COUNCIL OF CARPENTERS WELFARE  
FUND, NEW YORK CITY DISTRICT COUNCIL OF  
CARPENTERS VACATION FUND, NEW YORK CITY  
DISTRICT COUNCIL OF CARPENTERS ANNUITY  
FUND, NEW YORK CITY DISTRICT COUNCIL OF  
CARPENTERS APPRENTICESHIP, JOURNEYMAN  
RETRAINING, EDUCATIONAL AND INDUSTRY  
FUND, NEW YORK CITY DISTRICT COUNCIL OF  
CARPENTERS CHARITY FUND, UNITED BROTHERHOOD  
OF CARPENTERS AND JOINERS OF AMERICA FUND and  
THE NEW YORK CITY AND VICINITY CARPENTERS  
LABOR-MANAGEMENT CORPORATION, by MICHAEL  
J. FORDE, and PAUL O'BRIEN, as TRUSTEES, and  
MICHAEL J. FORDE, as EXECUTIVE SECRETARY and  
TREASURER, DISTRICT COUNCIL FOR NEW YORK  
CITY AND VICINITY, UNITED BROTHERHOOD OF  
CARPENTERS AND JOINERS OF AMERICA,

08 CV \_\_\_\_\_

**COMPLAINT**



Plaintiffs,

-against-

ATLANTIC FLOORING & CONSTRUCTION LLC,

Defendant.

-----X

Plaintiffs ("Benefit Funds"), by their attorneys O'Dwyer & Bernstein, LLP, for their  
Complaint allege as follows:

**NATURE OF THE CASE**

1. This is an action to confirm and enforce an Arbitrator's Award rendered pursuant to a collective bargaining agreement ("Agreement") between The District Council of New York City and Vicinity of the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America ("Union") and Atlantic Flooring & Construction LLC ("Employer").

### **JURISDICTION**

2. This Court has jurisdiction over this proceeding pursuant to section 301 of the Labor Management Relations Act ("LMRA"), 29 U.S.C. §185, sections 502(a)(3)(B)(ii), (d)(1), (e) and (g) of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act ("ERISA"), 29 U.S.C. §§1132(a)(3)(B)(ii), (d)(1), (e) and (g), section 515 of ERISA, 29 U.S.C. §1145, and section 9 of the Federal Arbitration Act, 9 U.S.C. §9.

3. Personal jurisdiction is based upon Section 502(e)(2) of ERISA, 29 U.S.C. §1132(e)(2).

### **VENUE**

4. Venue is proper in this district in that Plaintiffs' offices are located in this district.

### **PARTIES**

5. At all times relevant herein the Plaintiffs were jointly administered, multi-employer, Taft-Hartley Benefit Funds administered by trustees designated by a union and by employers, established and maintained pursuant to section 302(c)(5) of the LMRA, 29 U.S.C. §186(c)(5). Plaintiffs Forde and O'Brien are fiduciaries of the Benefit Funds within the meaning of ERISA sections 3(21) and 502, 29 U.S.C. §§1002(21) and 1132.

6. The Benefit Funds are employee benefit plans within the meaning of sections 3(1) and (3) of ERISA, 29 U.S.C. §1002(1) and (3) and are maintained for the purposes of providing health, medical and related welfare benefits, pension and other benefits to eligible participants and beneficiaries on whose behalf they receive contributions from numerous employers pursuant to collective bargaining agreements between the employers and the Union.

7. Upon information and belief defendant is a domestic corporation incorporated under laws of the State of New York with a principal place of business located at 1856 Colden

Avenue, Bronx, NY 10462.

8. The defendant is an employer within the meaning of section 3(5) of ERISA, 29 U.S.C. §1002 (5).

**FIRST CLAIM FOR RELIEF**

9. Defendant was bound at all relevant times by a collective bargaining agreement with the Union, which, by its terms, became effective July 1, 2001. Said Agreement provides, inter alia, that the defendant shall furnish its books and payroll records when requested by the Benefit Funds for the purpose of conducting an audit to ensure compliance with required benefit fund contributions and for the submission of disputes to final, binding arbitration.

10. A dispute arose during the period of the Agreement between the parties when the Employer failed to comply with the Benefit Funds' demands to furnish its books and records for the purpose of conducting an audit.

11. Pursuant to the arbitration clause in the Agreement, the dispute was submitted to arbitration to Robert Herzog, the duly designated impartial arbitrator.

12. Thereafter, upon due notice to all parties, the arbitrator duly held a hearing and rendered his award, in writing, dated January 15, 2008 determining said dispute. Upon information and belief, a copy of the award was delivered to the defendant (A copy of the award is annexed hereto as Exhibit "A" and made part hereof).

13. The arbitrator found that defendant had failed to comply with the Agreement as it relates to paying fringe benefit monies and directed it to furnish the Plaintiffs with any and all books and records, for the period of June 23, 2006 through January 15, 2008 including but not limited to, the cash disbursement section of the cash book, general ledger, job location records, daily time records and all certified payrolls.

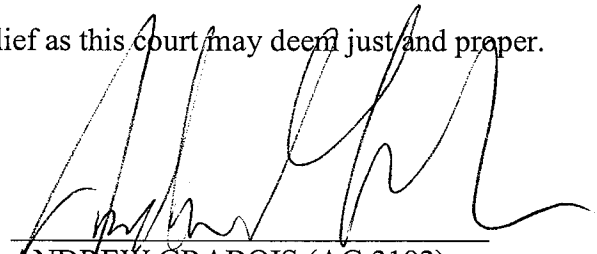
14. The arbitrator also found that defendant was required to pay the funds a sum of \$2,350.00 pursuant to the Agreement, representing costs incurred in the arbitration.

15. The defendant has failed to abide by the award.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs demand judgment against defendant as follows:

1. For an order confirming the arbitration award in all respects;
2. For entry of judgment in favor of the Plaintiffs ordering defendant and its officers to make available to the Plaintiffs or authorized representatives any and all books and records deemed necessary to conduct an audit including, but not limited to, the cash disbursement section of the cash book, general ledger, job location records, daily time records and all certified payrolls for the period June 23, 2006 through January 15, 2008.
3. For entry of judgment in favor of the Benefit Funds and against Atlantic Flooring & Construction LLC ordering defendant to pay the Benefit Funds a total sum of \$2,350.00 with interest to accrue at the rate of 10% from the date of the award, pursuant to the arbitrator's award.
4. For attorneys' fees and costs of this action;
5. For such other and further relief as this court may deem just and proper.

Dated: New York, New York  
February 27, 2008



\_\_\_\_\_  
ANDREW GRABOIS (AG 3192)  
O'Dwyer & Bernstein, LLP  
Attorneys for Plaintiffs  
52 Duane Street  
New York, NY 10007  
(212) 571-7100

# **EXHIBIT A**

**OFFICE OF THE IMPARTIAL ARBITRATOR**

-----X  
In The Matter Of The Arbitration

between

New York City District Council of Carpenters  
Pension Fund, New York City District Council of  
Carpenters Welfare Fund, New York City  
District Council of Carpenters Vacation Fund,  
New York City District Council of Carpenters  
Annuity Fund, New York City District Council  
of Carpenters Apprenticeship, Journeyman  
Retraining, Educational and Industry Fund,  
New York City District Council of Carpenters  
Charity Fund, United Brotherhood of Carpenters  
and Joiners of America Fund and The New York  
City and Vicinity Carpenters Labor-Management  
Corporation, by Michael J. Forde and Paul  
O'Brien, as Trustees

**DEFAULT**

**AWARD**

And

Michael J. Forde, as Executive Secretary-  
Treasurer, District Council for New York City  
and Vicinity, United Brotherhood of Carpenters  
and Joiners of America

(Petitioners)

-and-

ATLANTIC FLOORING & CONSTRUCTION LLC  
(Employer)

-----X  
BEFORE: Robert Herzog, Esq.

Atlantic Flooring & Construction LLC (hereinafter referred to  
as the "Employer") and the District Council of New York City and  
Vicinity of the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of  
America, are parties to Collective Bargaining Agreements, dated July  
01, 2001 and thereafter, providing for arbitration of disputes  
before the undersigned Arbitrator as Impartial Arbitrator, and in

which the Employer has therein agreed, for the duration of the agreements, to pay contributions toward employee benefit funds (hereinafter collectively referred to as the "Funds"). The Petitioners, as beneficiaries of the Collective Bargaining Agreements, have standing before the Arbitrator. In accordance therewith, the Petitioners, by a November 19, 2007 Notice of Intention to Arbitrate, demanded arbitration. The Petitioners alleged the Employer failed to permit the Funds to conduct an audit of its books and records for the period of June 23, 2006 through to date to determine whether it is in compliance with its obligation to contribute to the Funds. A Notice of Hearing dated November 21, 2007 advised the Employer and the Petitioners that the arbitration hearing was scheduled for December 10, 2007.

The Notice of Hearing was sent to the Employer by regular and certified mail. The regular mail copy of the Notice of Hearing was not returned to sender and deemed delivered to the Employer. The certified mail copy of the Notice of Hearing was not returned as undeliverable, but was returned marked "unclaimed." United States Postal Service records indicate that notice of certified mail was left with the Employer on November 26, 2007 at 3:42 p.m. The Employer failed to heed the notice and the postal service declared the envelope to be unclaimed and so marked the envelope. The Employer is deemed to have received the Notice of Hearing based on

the delivery of the regular mail copy and the Employer's voluntary act of not claiming the certified mail copy.

On December 10, 2007, at the place and time designated by the aforesaid Notice of Hearing, Steven Kasarda, Esq. appeared on behalf of the Petitioners. Despite the Employer having been sent notice of the proceeding and the claim against it, no appearance on its behalf was made. Also, no written, mutually agreed upon waiver by the parties to adjourn the proceeding, as required by the Collective Bargaining Agreements, was presented. The arbitration proceeded as a Default Hearing. Full opportunity was afforded the parties present to be heard, to offer evidence, and to examine witnesses. The Petitioners thereupon presented their proofs to the Arbitrator.

The uncontroverted testimony and evidence established that:

- During the June 23, 2006 to date period, the Employer was bound to Collective Bargaining Agreements with the District Council of New York City and Vicinity of the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America.
- The Collective Bargaining Agreements obligated the Employer to make certain payments to Fringe Benefit Trust Funds on behalf of all its carpenter employees pursuant to schedules set forth in the Agreements.



- The Collective Bargaining Agreements authorized the Funds to conduct an audit of the Employer's books and records in order to verify that all the required contributions were made to each of the aforesaid Fringe Benefit Trust Funds maintained by the Funds.
- In accordance with this auditing provision, an accountant, employed by the Funds, sought to conduct an audit of the Employer's books and records. In violation of this auditing provision, the Employer did not consent to an audit of the Employer's books and records.

**AWARD**

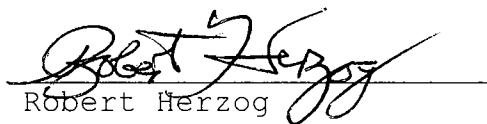
Based upon the substantial and credible evidence of the case as a whole:

1. Atlantic Flooring & Construction LLC is in violation of the terms of the Collective Bargaining Agreements;
2. Atlantic Flooring & Construction LLC is ordered to permit and facilitate the Funds conducting an audit of its books and records for the period of June 23, 2006 through to date to determine whether it is in compliance with its obligations to contribute to the Funds;
3. Atlantic Flooring & Construction LLC shall pay to the Funds forthwith the Petitioners' counsel's fees, the undersigned Arbitrator's fee, and all associated court costs in the following amounts:

|                  |               |
|------------------|---------------|
| Court Costs      | \$ 350.00     |
| Attorney's Fee   | 1,500.00      |
| Arbitrator's Fee | <u>500.00</u> |

TOTAL \$2,350.00


4. Atlantic Flooring & Construction LLC shall pay to the District Council Carpenters Benefit Funds the aggregate amount of two thousand three hundred fifty dollars (\$2,350.00) with interest to accrue at the rate of 10% from the date of this Award.

  
Robert Herzog  
Arbitrator

Dated: January 15, 2008

State of New York )  
County of Rockland )

I, Robert Herzog, do hereby affirm upon my oath as Arbitrator that I am the individual described in and who executed this instrument, which is my Award.

  
Robert Herzog  
Arbitrator

Dated: January 15, 2008

To: Atlantic Flooring & Construction LLC  
Attn: Mr. Robert Booth, President  
1856 Colden Avenue  
Bronx, New York 10462

Steven Kasarda, Esq.  
New York City District Council Carpenters Benefit Funds  
395 Hudson Street  
New York, New York 10014